

# COMMUNIQUE

## SAN GABRIEL VALLEY CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America, Inc.  
Meetings are held at **7:30 PM** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month  
in the Lecture Hall, Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia  
**February 2007 Volume 40 Number 2**

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**Monthly Meeting:** Join us **Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 pm when our guest speaker will be **Woody Minnich**. Woody will take us on an adventure to the Bolivian Highlands.

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**Plants of the Month:** (see attached write ups )

**CACTI – *Epiphytes***

**SUCCULENT – *Epiphytes***

Bring your specimens in for our monthly mini-show. It will help you prepare for the real shows and give you an additional opportunity to show others your pride and joy. If you don't have any of this type of plant you can learn about them at the meeting

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**Study Group: Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> ; Topic – Photo Workshop**

If you have a digital camera and are interested in taking pictures of your plants you won't want to miss this workshop. Attendees will also receive instructions for the September Study Group topic "Photo Tour" where members will have the opportunity to give a short presentation of their own collections.

Meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Grapevine Room, San Gabriel Adult Center, 324 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel (between the San Gabriel Mission and Civic Auditorium). These exciting events feature expert group leaders and mentors, free give-a-ways (some of the best plants you'll ever get!), and lively discussion. Everybody learns something!

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**Refreshments:** The following club members have signed up to bring refreshments for the February meeting: **William Molina, Barbara Nolan and Rita Gerlach**. Remember the first three people to sign up and bring refreshments will receive a plant. There are still some vacant spots on the sign-up sheet.

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**Personal Notes:**

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family and friends of **Ron Young**, who passed away January 1, 2007. Ron was a long-time active member of SGVCSS and his presence will be missed.

**New Members:** SGVCSS wishes to extend a warm welcome to its newest members **Genora Crozier and Deek Dittrich**. Deek has a long commute to attend the meetings as he is joining us from Oroville, CA. Be sure to take a look at the Club's website <http://www.sgvcss.com>. If you wish to receive your COMMUNIQUE on-line please notify the editor at [sgv\\_css@prodigy.net](mailto:sgv_css@prodigy.net).

**Membership Renewal and Roster Deadline:** February 17<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for inclusion in the 2007 Roster, which should be available at the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. The February Communique is the last one you will receive unless you renew your membership. Check the date on your mailing label to verify your membership expiration date. If it does **not** say 2007 you have not renewed. Dues are \$12 for a single membership, \$15 for two people at the same address. Send checks to Bill Gerlach at 719 S Albertson, Covina, CA 91723, or pay him at the February meeting. If the treasurer does not have your membership money by February 17<sup>th</sup>, your name(s) will be **removed** from the membership list

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**Committee Chair:** Congratulations to **Manny Rivera** on his selection to become the Winter Show Chairperson and Plant of the Month Judge/Interest Table Chairperson. A special thanks to **Vince Basta** for the time and effort he gave to these positions in the past.

**Club Photographer:** Smile when you see **Tommy Dodson** with his camera. Tommy will be recording our club events with his camera.

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**Bus Trip - March 24 -Riverside Area:** The SGVCSS is going to have a bus trip on Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>. The main destination will be **Buck & Yvonne Hemenway's** 7th Annual Garden Tour & Plant Sale. We will then travel to the Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center to visit the grounds, which include a cactus garden and nursery as well as a plant sale area. We will stop in downtown Riverside near the Mission Inn for lunch. After lunch the plan is to visit the gardens at the University of Riverside. Time permitting, we plan to stop at The Sims Tree Learning Center in Pedley and see the Joe Casey Cactus & Succulent Collection.

The cost of the trip for members, excluding lunch, will be a net \$15 (\$30 to get on the list with \$15 to be refunded on the bus if you make the trip.) Boarding of the bus will start at 8AM in the Arboretum parking lot in the area behind Ayres Hall. Boarding order will be by lottery. To get on the list send \$30 for each person to **Bill Gerlach** at 719 S Albertson, Covina, CA 91723 or see him at the next meeting. Guests are welcome; however, the cost of the trip will be \$25 with no refund. Cancellations will be accepted up to 72 hours before departure. Make checks payable to SGVCSS.

If you want to have lunch at the Mission Inn please contact **Jean Mullens** so she can make a table reservation. Also, there is a fantastic sandwich shop across the street from the Mission Inn.

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***CACTUS AND SUCCULENT  
CALENDAR OF UP COMING EVENTS FOR 2007***

- Feb10<sup>th</sup> San Diego Winter Show and Sale 9AM to 4PM  
Rm 101 Casa Del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
- Mar 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Buck & Yvonne Hemenway's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour and Plant Sale 9AM to 5PM  
5890 Grinnell Dr., Riverside, CA 92509
- Apr. 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> South Coast Cactus & Succulent Society Show and Sale  
So. Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA #310-832-2262
- Apr 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> Green Scene Plant Sale – Fullerton Arboretum  
1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831

- Apr 29<sup>th</sup> South Bay Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale  
So. Coast Botanical Gardens, 26300 Crenshaw Blvd, Palos Verdes, CA #310-833-6823
- May 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Sunset Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale, Veterans Memorial Center,  
Garden Room, 4117 Overland Ave., Culver City, CA. Info. #310-822-1783
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Huntington Plant Sale 10 to 5 Huntington Botanical Garden  
1151 Oxford Road, San Marino CA #626-405-2160
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Epiphyllum Society Show and Sale  
Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia, CA #310-831-1209
- May 25<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> CSSA 32<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention—Seattle, Washington
- June 2<sup>nd</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> San Diego Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
Balboa Park, Room 101, San Diego, CA. Info #619-477-4779
- June 9<sup>th</sup> Gates Cactus and Succulent Society 30<sup>th</sup> Show and Sale – 9 to 4  
Jurupa Mountains Cultural Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Glen Avon, CA  
Info #909-390-8802
- June 9<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> Los Angeles Cactus and Succulent Society Show and Sale  
Sepulveda Garden Center, 16633 Magnolia Blvd. Encino, CA Info #818-363-3432

**Jan--2007 Plant-of-the-Month Mini Show Results**

	<b>Cacti- Beginner</b>	<b>Single Headed Mammillaria</b>		<b>Succulent- Intermediate</b>	<b>Aloe Hybrids</b>
1st	Alex Abrahamian	M. hahniana	1st	Eunice Thompson	A. "Snowflake"
2nd	W. Molina	M. obscura	2nd	Michael Romero	A. hybrid
3rd	O. Flores	M. magnimamma	3rd	Cindy Arakaki	A. D.Black x Lizard lips
3rd	J & G Mancuso	M. spinosissima	3rd	Oscar Flores	A. x Warren
<b>Intermediate</b>					
1st	Dick Tatman	M. hahniana	1st	Phil Skonieczki	A. " Black Beauty "
2nd	Dick Tatman	M. marksiana	2nd	John Matthews	A. " Quicksilver "
2nd	Dodson-Birgh	M. melanocentra	3rd	Dodson-Birgh	A. " Green N Gold "
3rd	Dodson-Birgh	M. magnimamma			
3rd	Dodson-Birgh	M. hahniana			
<b>Advanced</b>					
1st	Carol Maker	M. mendeliana	1st	Tom Vermilion	A. " Spikey "
2nd	Carol Maker	M. hahniana	2nd	Jean Mullens	A. " Midnight "
2nd	Carol Maker	M. meigeana	3rd	Rita Gerlach	A. " Don Wirth "
3rd	Rita Gerlach	M. sp			
<b>Master</b>					
			1st	Jim Hanna	A. sinkatana x jacunda
			2nd	Tom Glavich	A. " Winter Sky "
			3rd	Jim Hanna	A. " Seymour "
			3rd	Jim Hanna	A. " Blimey Limey "

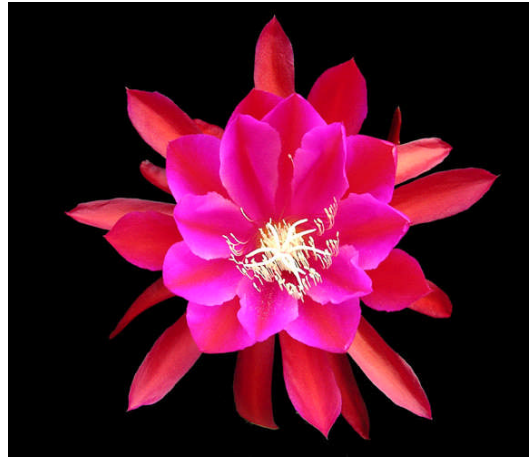
# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Cacti of the Month February 2007 - *Epiphytes*

Epiphytic cacti have a place in every collection. They are easy to grow, requiring remarkably little care; in general have few spines, and many reward the grower with a spectacular show of flowers. Epiphytic cacti are the tree, rock and cliff dwellers of the cactus family, spending their entire lives above the ground, and living on water from rain, fog and mist.

Epiphytic cacti prefer a different potting mix than most ground loving cacti. A frequently used potting mix includes equal parts of potting soil, bark and pumice. Excellent drainage in the mix is important for healthy growth. These plants evolved with moisture passing through the root zone rapidly. Rain forest moisture is frequent, but short lived. Even rain forests have prolonged dry periods, and these plants have developed mechanisms to survive periodic droughts. Regular feeding with a balanced fertilizer, and a constant supply of moisture, particularly during the growing season are important.

Epiphytic cacti are all easily propagated from either cuttings or seed. Cuttings can be taken any time the plant is in active growth, spring being best, but any time during the summer and early fall will also work. Thin stemmed epiphytes, such as most of the *Rhipsalis* can be plant immediately. Thicker leaved genera should be allowed to dry for a day or two before planting. *Zygocactus* can be easily propagated from cuttings, but for reasonable success, two segments need to be used rather than one.



*Epiphyllum* 'Aztec Treasure'

Seed from many of the epiphytic cacti, particularly *Rhipsalis*, is hard to come by. One or two species are occasionally offered by the CSSA seed bank. For those with an interest in hybridization, many epiphytes are easily pollinated and cross pollinated both within genera, and across genera. When the fruit turns color and hardens, it can be harvested, the seeds removed, cleaned, and stored until the following spring.



*Aporophyllum*

## Selected epiphytes

There are far too many great epiphytic cacti to include references to all of the genera, never mind species. A few noteworthy examples are:

*Aporocactus (Disocactus) flagelliformis* from Oaxaca to Hidalgo in Mexico has brilliant red flowers, born in profusion in May. *Aporophyllum* is a bi-generic cross between *Aporocactus* and *Epiphyllum*,

*Disocactus amazonicus* is one of the many brightly colored species of *Disocactus*.

*Epiphyllum oxypetalum* is a spectacular night white flowered bloomer. Pollinated by moths or bats. Its large flowers open after sundown, and are gone before 11 the next morning. Even so, the blooms are worth visiting at night, and in the early morning hours.



*Hattoria salicornioides*

*Hattoria salicornioides*, shown left, and commonly known as the Drunkard's Dream is an easily grown epiphyte from Brazil. It gets large with time and patience. It will stay dense if given sufficient water and food, otherwise it grows sparse.

*Nopalxochia (Disocactus) kimnachii* is a large red to pink flowered species with long thin stems.

*Rhipsalis* has about 25 species, and is possibly the only cactus known from outside of the New World.



*Rhipsalis cereuscula*

Sub species of *Rhipsalis baccifera* are found in tropical Africa Madagascar and the islands of the Indian Ocean, stretching as far as Sri Lanka. Although centered in Brazil, subspecies are also found as far east as Peru, giving this species the largest geographical range of any cactus.

Tom Glavich January 2007

# San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society

## Succulent of the Month February 2007 - *Epiphytes*

Epiphytic Succulents form a mixed group of mostly tropical plants. Many of these come from genera that are not often collected by succulent growers, and fall more into other specialist collections. It's rare in our shows to have more than a few epiphytic succulents exhibited. Nonetheless, there is a wealth of Epiphytic Succulent genera to explore.

The *Asclepiadaceae* offers a number of wonderful plants, many from unusual locales for the Succulent grower, Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, Malaysia, the Philippines, etc.



*Hoya* 'Julian Rope'

There are about 40 species of *Dischidia*, almost all epiphytic with clearly thick leaves. They come from hot humid places, and rainfall although frequent is not around long enough to provide a constant water source. These thick leaved plants thrive with frequent watering, particularly in the summer. Some require winter protection from temperatures below 40.

A related and more popular genus is *Hoya*. *Hoya* are often somewhat more tolerant of cold, tolerating temperatures into the mid 30s and occasionally even below without much damage. *Hoya* have been propagated and hybridized for leaf shape and flower color, and size. *Hoya* is the only succulent that has been hybridized for fragrance, giving the

grower a choice that stretches from chocolate to raw sewage (these are very showy, and not powerful).



*Hoya* 'Dee's Big One'

The *Bromeliad* family is another great source of interesting epiphytic succulents. The most commonly seen epiphytic bromeliads are members of the genus *Tillandsia*. There are hundreds of succulent species, cultivars and hybrids. Many enthusiasts collect nothing else. The flowers are often spectacular, sometimes remarkably fragrant. The plants are easily grown for the most part. Some species are only available from bromeliad nurseries, but a surprisingly large selection passes through retail outlets. They require frequent watering in the summer, and moving air at all times.



*Tillandsia edithiae*

There are other succulent epiphytes in the *Bromeliad* family, some well known, and some not so well known. The genus *Quesnelia* offers some great species and hybrids and does *Aechmea* and *Billbergia*. Some of these are grown as epiphytic, but are really opportunists, growing on trees, rocks, power lines, etc.; wherever they can get a hold to start germination.



*Tillandsia ionantha*

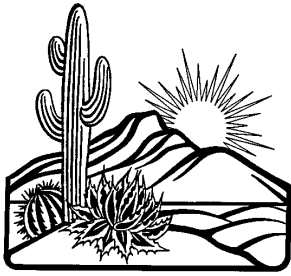
There are about 80 genera in the *Bromeliad* Family, and well over half have species that are both epiphytic and succulent.

Going further a field, the orchid family has many succulent epiphytic members. Shown below is *Epidendrum parkinsonianum*, a succulent epiphytic member of a family that is often terrestrial. This is growing, surrounded by Tillandsias, getting morning sun. It needs frequent watering and benefits from occasional fertilizing, as do most epiphytic plants.



*Epidendrum parkinsonianum* and *Tillandsia latifolia* v. *divaricata*

Tom Glavich January 2007



COMMUNIQUE  
Newsletter of the San Gabriel Valley  
Cactus and Succulent Society  
C/o Evelyn Stevens  
10119 ½ E Olive Street  
Temple City, CA 91780

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

If you have a cactus or succulent related event that you'd like to have announced in the **COMMUNIQUE**, please forward the information to the address given below. Please verify event dates - sometimes events are rescheduled or canceled without adequate advance notice. Articles, Notices and Corrections can be sent via E-mail to: [sgv\\_css@prodigy.net](mailto:sgv_css@prodigy.net) or via post to: San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society Newsletter Editor, c/o Evelyn Stevens, 10119 ½ E. Olive St., Temple City, CA 91780-3345. Material must be received by the last Thursday of the month to be considered for publication in the next issue of the **COMMUNIQUE**.

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